

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A rubber composition comprising as a rubber component (A) a synthetic polyisoprene rubber having a cis-1,4-bond content of not less than 99.0%, a 3,4-bond content of not more than 0.5% and a Mooney viscosity ML_{1+4} (100°C) of 20-110 and (B) a natural rubber, wherein a ratio by mass of (A) the synthetic polyisoprene rubber to a total of (A) the synthetic polyisoprene rubber and (B) the natural rubber is 5-60 mass %.

2. (canceled).

3. (original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein a total content of (A) the synthetic polyisoprene rubber and (B) the natural rubber in the rubber component is not less than 40 mass%.

4. (original) A rubber composition according to claim 3, wherein the total content of (A) the synthetic polyisoprene rubber and (B) the natural rubber in the rubber component is not less than 80 mass%.

5. (original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, comprising not less than 10 parts by mass of a reinforcing filler based on 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

6. (original) A rubber composition according to claim 5, comprising not less than 30 parts by mass of a reinforcing filler based on 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

7. (original) A rubber composition according to claim 5, wherein the reinforcing filler comprises a carbon black having a nitrogen adsorption specific surface area (N_2SA) of not less than $70 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

8. (original) A rubber composition according to claim 5, wherein the reinforcing filler comprises a silica having a nitrogen adsorption specific surface area (N_2SA) of not less than $180 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

9. (original) A rubber composition according to claim 5, which is sulfur crosslinkable.

10. (original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, which is used for a tread of a tire.

11. (original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, which is used for a casing member of a tire.

12. (previously presented): A tire, characterized in that a rubber composition as claimed in claim 1 is applied to a tread or a casing member.

13. (previously presented): A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the synthetic polyisoprene rubber has a cis-1,4-bond content of not less than 99.6% and a 3,4-bond content of not more than 0.4%.

14. (previously presented): A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the synthetic polyisoprene rubber has a cis-1,4-bond content of not less than 99.9% and a 3,4-bond content of not more than 0.1%.